

BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, December 16, 1999

At 1:00 p.m.

Jury Room in Judge McKelvie's Chambers
844 King Street
Room 4124
Wilmington, Delaware

- I. Approval of Minutes
- II. New Members of Conference and Terms of Service
- III. Political Year 2000

Are there any areas involving mutual interests of the bar, bench and media which might need clarification as the highly-charged political year 2000 unfolds?

IV. Juries

- 1. Have the events of the past year in Delaware altered how to handle the question of personal identification of jury members in high-profile criminal cases?
- 2. Should the public/press be notified if there is a debriefing of a jury with lawyers present?
- 3. Would there be a public benefit i.e., an increase in public understanding, if there were public forums where tutorials for new jurors were shown and the operation of juries explained? Is this an area for the media to explore?

V. Access to Information

How soon after filing is a court document public? Is it possible to develop a workable system for notifying the press of: juries coming in with verdicts, last-minute hearings, written decisions coming down?

Can hearings be held in chambers from which press is barred
if hearing is supposed to be open?

What are the rules covering telephone conferences between
lawyers and judges?

VI. Suggestions for Programs for Later Meetings

WHITHER Bench-Bar Media

Juries: A Tutorial

See the video shown in Superior Court to jury pool

Valerie Hans how jurors think

Judges on how effective are jurors in being fact specific

Criminal bar and civil bar on jurors

Causes for dismissal

Post-trial contact with press

VI. Old Business

VII. New Business

VIII. Next Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE**

The Bar-Bench-Media Conference convened on Thursday, December 16, 1999, in the jury room of Judge Roderick R. McKelvie.

Present were:

Members from the Bench

Judge Roderick R. McKelvie
Judge John K. Welch

Members from the Bar

David L. Finger, Esquire

Members from the Print News Media

John Taylor
Jim Flood, Sr.
Rita Farrell
Michael Pelrine

Members from the Electronic Media

Chris Carl
Cindy Balan
Allan R. Loudell

Others

David Marston, law clerk to Judge McKelvie
Steven Carlson, law clerk to Judge McKelvie

The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. Juries

The members of the Committee discussed issues relating to jury trials, including education of jurors, their selection, and interview of jurors after the trial. We agreed to invite

Judge Babiarz to attend our next meeting and make a presentation on the recent study done in the state system on juries and jury trials.

2. Access to Information

The members of the Committee discussed access to information on court systems, including the District of Delaware's plans to prepare a web site.

3. New Castle County Courthouse

The members of the Committee discussed the status of efforts to see that the media's interests are addressed in the new courthouse.

4. Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to schedule a meeting for one hour beginning at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2000. Judge McKelvie will invite Judge Babiarz and other Superior Court judges to make a presentation on their recent jury study. He will ask President Judge Ridgely if we can use the Superior Court's teleconferencing system.

Roderick R. McKelvie

December 29, 1999